

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT GUIDELINES ON REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT**

PHOENIX (Tuesday, April 22, 2003) -- Superintendent Tom Horne today held a press conference to announce a reporting procedures manual designed to guide Arizona's professional educators through the process of reporting allegations of child abuse and professional misconduct to the appropriate authorities. The reporting manual guides school personnel as to what must be reported and to whom these reports should be made.

"Protecting the health and welfare of students is the most important and fundamental responsibility of every professional educator," said Superintendent Tom Horne. "These laws include important guidelines on reporting allegations of child abuse and professional misconduct. Failure to comply with these laws can result in the needless victimization of children, and may also lead to criminal and administrative proceedings against those who fail to make the required reports."

The reporting manual is designed to help all school personnel better understand their responsibilities to report alleged abuse. School personnel are required to report allegations of child abuse and professional misconduct under two Arizona Laws: A.R.S. § 13-3620 – mandates reporting to law enforcement or C.P.S. (Child Protective Services) and A.R.S. § 15-514 – mandates reporting to the State Board of Education.

Additionally, the document provides important information on a secured, password protected web site that can be an invaluable resource to all schools in the Department of Education's efforts to protect children from professional misconduct. Specifically the website can provide all school districts and charters with: current certification information; fingerprint clearance card information; information on ongoing investigations of immoral/unprofessional conduct; information on any past disciplinary actions taken by the State Board; and allows the schools to make a report of immoral/unprofessional misconduct to the State Board via e-mail.

The Arizona Department of Education/State Board of Education Reporting Procedures Manual can be downloaded on [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov), or for the State's Investigative Unit please call (602) 542-2972.

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